



Arizona Central West Zone Incident Management Team

February Fire NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Sunday, February 12, 2006 8:00 a.m.

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Acres: 2,475 acres	Start date: Monday, February 6, 2005
Cause: Human, under investigation	Location: 12 miles north of Payson, AZ
Containment: 30 percent	Fuels: Chaparral, pine and juniper
Terrain: Rough, broken, steep terrain	Total personnel: 507
Crews: 11 crews	Equipment: 22 engines, 6 dozers, 12 water tenders
Available air support: Six helicopters, two air tankers	

Firefighters took advantage of unexpectedly varied and diminished winds Saturday to continue burn-out operations and reinforce the fire line around the February Fire. Eddying winds often aided firefighters, pushing the fire back into itself and helping expand the black line. Firing operations were conducted along the road leading to Camp Geronimo Boy Scout Camp, moving down into sparser fuels north of the Control Road.

Prescribed fires performed by firefighters of the Tonto National Forest along the Control Road over the last two years have thinned the fuels well. This provides a fuel break that reinforces the fire line along the road. Other prescribed fires and fuel thinning projects in the area have provided fuel breaks that have stopped the advance of the February Fire and provided a secure anchor for the building of fire line.

Aerial ignition or hand ignition of unburned fuels within the fire perimeter is expected today. Firing operations will continue along the Camp Geronimo access road to the Control Road and east from there.

The Control Road (FR 64) remains closed between the Geronimo Estates Roads (FR 458) and the Washington Park Road (FR 32). Residents will have access to their properties. To protect those traveling and working along the Control Road, the speed limit is 20 mph.

A February Fire update will be broadcast live on the Payson TV station, Ch. 4 today at 3:00 p.m.

For additional information, updates and maps see www.fs.fed.us/r3/cwz/index.htm.

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